GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1887
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
SMUGGLING OF ANTIQUES FROM RUINS OF KHAJURAHO
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved construction of Archaeological museum to check large scale smuggling of antiques lying among the ruins in Khajuraho;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the funds allocated by the Government for this purpose; and

(d) by when the above work is likely to be completed?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved the construction of an archaeological museum at Khajuraho in which the antiquities which are in the possession of the Archaeological Survey of India will be displayed. No case of theft has been reported from the centrally protected area of Khajuraho.

(b) A piece of land measuring 2.234 hectare is in possession of the Archaeological Survey of India at Khajuraho.

A boundary wall with a grill is at present under construction for which an amount of Rs.31.16 lakh has been sanctioned.

(c) & (d) An amount of Rs. two crores has been sanctioned for the construction of the museum building at Khajuraho. No time frame for its construction can be given at this juncture as the plans are still under formulation.